II. *AIDS Case Surveillance*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AIDS Cases in India | 6609 | 2 |
| Males | 5204(78.74%) | - |
| Females | 1405(21.26%) | 2(100%) |

*Probale Source of Infection*

| No. of Cases | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Heterosexual | 4901 | 74.16 |
| Transfusion of Blood and Blood product | 538 | 8.14 |
| Homosexual contact | 36 | 0.54 |
| Injectable Drug Addicts | 467 | 7.07 |
| Others (Not Specified) | 667 | 10.09 |
| Total: | 6609 | |

**Setting up of National Commission on Children**

704. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Commission on Children;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration/finalised;

(c) the present status of the proposal, the terms of reference and composition of the Commission;

(d) whether private agencies/NGOs would also be involved; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of fresh initiatives taken by Government during recent months for implementing the ban on child labour and several other steps for welfare and development of children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The matter regarding setting up of a National Commission for Children is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Child labour is a deep rooted Socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time.

So far 7% child labour projects have been sanctioned by the Government in the child labour endemic states for the coverage of 1.5 lakh children for their rehabilitation from hazardous work. Children engaged in non-hazardous nature are mainly being taken care of through formal and non-formal education. The Government have also released funds of Rs. 1317.76 lakhs for the rehabilitation of child labour through 64 voluntary organizations during 1997-98.

Apart from rehabilitative measures the various provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 is also being enforced with a view to prohibit the employment of children in certain occupations and processes and regulating their working conditions in those occupations/processes not prohibited under the Acts. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which has given several directions, in its judgement dated 10.12.1996 including payment of compensation by the employers by employing children in hazardous occupation. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

An initiative to strengthen and improve the quality of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) aimed at the holistic development of children has almost been finalised to cover six States, i.e. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, there is also a national programme to develop and upgrade the skills and capacities of persons working towards women and child development.

**Thefts from the Monuments of Historical Importance**

705.PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thefts have been reported from some of the monuments of historical importance managed by Archaeological Survey of India in the recent past; if so, the details of such thefts and those committed during the last three years; and

(b) what preventive measures are proposed to be taken to protect country's prestigious heritage?